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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 209032
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-08 COME-00 STR-07 TRSE-00
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APPROVED BY EA/J: L N-D. ROMBERG
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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CARR (REMPELL, STEVEN H. JA

SUBJECT: STEVEN H. REMPELL

REF: (A) STATE 184462, (B) TOKYO 13064

1. BELOW IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM MR. JOSEPH REMPELL,
FATHER OF STEVEN REMPELL, TO SECRETARY VANCE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. VANCE:

I AM TAKING THE LIBERTY OF SENDING YOU AN ARTICLE THAT
APPEARED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES ON MONDAY, JULY 10. THIS
ARTICLE IS ABOUT MY SON, STEVE.
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AS IS APPARENT FROM THE ENCLOSED ARTICLE THE ISSUES IN THIS
CASE ARE APPLICABLE TO THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF TRADE WITH
JAPAN, AND MY SON'S DILEMMA IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF THOSE
DIFFICULTIES.

MY SON, A CORNELL GRADUATE AND FORMER IBM EXECUTIVE HAD THE

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TEMERITY TO BUCK THE COMBINATION OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND THE TWO OR THREE CARTELS THAT CONTROL THE IMPORTATION OF LIQUOR INTO JAPAN. HE MADE A PROFIT BUYING AND SELLING LIQUOR CHEAPER THAN THE CARTELS, BECAUSE THEY ADDED SEVERAL HUNDRED PERCENT PROFIT TO THEIR COST TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE JAPANESE CONSUMER.

AT FIRST IMPRISONED UNDER HORRIBLE CONDITIONS FOR 4 1/2 MONTHS, HIS MONEY CONFISCATED, ACCUSED OF BEING A GANGSTER AND A HOODLUM, HE HAS GAINED THE HELP OF SEVERAL PROMINENT JAPANESE ATTORNEYS, AND OTHER JAPANESE INTERESTS.

AS MY REPRESENTATIVE FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS, I FEEL THAT IF YOU LOOKED INTO AND INQUIRED ABOUT THIS CASE YOU WILL BE ASTOUNDED AT THE WAY AN AMERICAN CITIZEN HAS BEEN TREATED.

I HAVE NOT SOUGHT YOUR AIDE AND ASSISTANCE PRIOR TO THIS TIME BECAUSE MY SON FEARED THAT HIS PHYSICAL SAFETY AS WELL AS HIS GUILT OR INNOCENCE WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED BY ANY OVERT ACTIONS BY AN AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO LOOK INTO THE FACTS OF THIS CASE. OF THE ABSOLUTE VIOLATION OF MY SONS HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS. THE TOTAL ABANDONMENT OF MY SON BY THE AMERICAN CONSUL AND WHY THE EMBASSY CHOSE TO CLOSE THEIR EYES AND
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EARS TO THIS PLIGHT. YOURS TRULY, JOSEPH REMPELL. END TEXT.

VANCE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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